

POW's, became emaciated from extreme hunger and his health declined. Dysentery, infections, work injuries, and TB ravaged the men held by the Nazis in the dreaded stalags and Raymond Johnson was not immune. By the spring of 1945, near death, weighing only 98 pounds, suffering from dysentery and having lost all of his teeth because of malnutrition, Raymond and most of his comrades had survived almost 2½ years as prisoners of war, subjected to constant hardship and Gestapo interrogation. Prisoners were dying at the rate of three or four dead a day. Still, secure in his faith in both God and country, Raymond did not give up hope that he would be liberated and see his home and family again. Raymond's prayers would not go unanswered. As the Irish proverb goes, "God is just but He takes His time."

Almost as suddenly as he became a prisoner of war, events transpired that would change Raymond's life for the better. On Friday, April 13, 1945, Raymond's prayers were answered. The men of Nazi Stalag 3B heard thunder in the distance. In a state of panic, German guards began shooting some prisoners and locked the rest in their barracks as the thunder loomed nearer. That thunder soon was recognized as artillery fire. The artillery fire became the sounds of tanks in battle. The sounds of tank fire transformed into the sound of tank treads. The tank treads became so loud that the POW's huddled on the floor together fearing that the Germans would make good on their threat to kill them before they could be liberated. The commotion outside the barracks was so loud that many of the men later reported being almost deafened until the next sound that they heard was the barracks doors being thrown open and an American GI yelling, "You're safe now, boys. We've come to take you home!" A day that is feared by the superstitious of the world, Friday the 13th, thereafter became Raymond's special day for the rest of his life.

Although liberated, Raymond's life still weighed in the balance. At the fittingly named Camp Lucky, Raymond almost died from his state of malnutrition several times. After 3 harrowing weeks, medics finally approved Raymond to be placed aboard a hospital ship heading for America. Enroute, men continued to die and were buried at sea. Contemplating the hardships he had endured, Raymond feared that it would be both senseless and ironic if he should die at sea before seeing his family again. Raymond continued to pray that God would spare his life. Once again Raymond's prayers were answered.

This story would end here and would not be of note had it not been for one simple thing. A nation anxious to return to normal, eager to discharge veterans as quickly as they could be brought back home from the war in Europe and the Pacific, became a nation too busy to honor its heroes. Raymond Johnson never received the recognition that he deserved for serving his country with distinction and honor in both its saddest and finest moments.

Raymond Johnson eventually regained much of his health. However, doctors told him that he would never be the same after having suffered the fate of Nazi prison camps. Humbly, Raymond went on with his life, devout in his faith, and proud of his service to his country. Like most veterans, Raymond did not complain much. They were just thankful to be home with their families. In fact, Raymond

Johnson lead a modest but happy life, barely speaking of his experiences in the Nazi stalags. Few people could have guessed what the war had been like for Raymond.

Unfortunately, Raymond left this life on October 20, 1981, after suffering from cancer. Today, Raymond Johnson is survived by his widow, Mildred Johnson of Fort Walton Beach, FL, who attends St. Mary's Catholic Church regularly and is active in the Legion of Mary. Raymond was fortunate to have seven children, four sons, Robert, a teacher in Fort Walton Beach, Dennis a postal worker, a Roman Catholic Priest, Kevin, and Thomas who works for the State of Florida, and three daughters, Sandra, Katherine, and Mary, as well as 10 grandchildren, including a namesake, Raymond. While it may be too late to honor Raymond Johnson personally, this Christmas season I am pleased to be able to present to his family the medals and awards that this hero has been owed for over 50 years—the Bronze Star Medal, the Prisoner of War Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, and the coveted Combat Infantryman's Badge. These decorations pale in comparison to the gift that Raymond gave his country but they are all that a humble nation can give to pay tribute to one of its heroes. I am pleased to know that the First Congressional District of Florida can boast of the merits of an American the likes of Raymond Johnson and his fine family. Mr. Speaker, we owe this man, and all of our Nation's veterans our most sincere thanks and gratitude.

#### TRIBUTE TO LINCOLN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lincoln Technical Institute, the largest training company in the Nation, on its 50th anniversary.

Lincoln Technical Institute [LTI] was founded in Newark, NJ, in 1946 to provide returning war veterans with practical job skills. Since that time, the institute has grown to develop and offer one of the Nation's most innovative and effective job training programs at 14 schools in 6 States.

The first programs offered in 1946 trained veterans in the fields of heating and air-conditioning. Training in automatic transmissions was added soon after. That began LTI's expertise in the automotive field. Over the years, courses in electronic and computer technologies and mechanical and architectural drafting have been added. In 1993, LTI acquired the Cittone Institute which added office focused programs such as court reporting and computerized accounting skills training. Today, LTI offers specialized training in 12 fields.

Students at LTI come from many different stages of life. Some are recent high school graduates that enroll in LTI to start their career. Others decide to make a career change and attend LTI to learn the skills necessary for their new profession. There are also a number of students who go to LTI through their employers in an effort to improve their skills.

Most impressive is that over 90 percent of LTI's graduates are working in the fields for

which they trained. This reflects not only the quality of the students, but the faculty, curriculum and state-of-the-art equipment LTI uses in its schools and classrooms.

I commend Lincoln Technical Institute for its dedication to the education and training of its students. In the competitive job market of the 1990s, Lincoln Technical Institute is essential to help many Americans reach their career objectives. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing this fine institution a happy anniversary and another 50 years of continued success.

#### BILINGUAL EDUCATION'S FATAL FLAWS

HON. TOBY ROTH

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of my colleagues to the excellent article on bilingual education that appeared in the September 25, 1995 U.S. News & World Report, "Tongue-tied in the schools." The author, Susan Headden, makes a compelling argument that bilingual education is a public policy failure that has been kept alive by bureaucratic inertia.

Ms. Headden's assessment of the program's effectiveness is unambiguous; she writes that "along with crumbling classrooms and violence in the hallways, bilingual education has emerged as one of the dark spots on the grim tableau of American public education."

The article goes on to show that current bilingual education programs are inadequate and actually counter-productive in helping new Americans and their children integrate into American society by learning English. Surveys have shown that today's immigrants want a chance for their children to learn English because it is the key to success in America.

Transitional bilingual education has failed to meet the test Congress established for it in 1978—namely, that it improves students' performance in English. The research evidence on transitional bilingual education indicates that it may, in fact, have a negative impact on students in these programs.

The first step we must take is to eliminate the bilingual education bureaucracy which has a vested interest in continuing along the same failed path. The money the Federal Government spends on bilingual education could be better spent on English classes for immigrants and intensive English instruction for their children. An afterschool program could do these children far more good than 6 years of a bilingual education program.

In the past, America has always been a shining example of how people from all corners of the world can live and work together in cultural harmony. This was the case because our country has enjoyed a common and unifying bond, the English language. We must preserve this bond to protect our future as a nation.

Bilingual education is a threat to that unity, because it doesn't help teach children English. That's why I introduced the Declaration of Official Language Act. In addition to declaring English our official language, H.R. 739 also seeks to repeal Federal mandates—like bilingual